

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced that Randall Brown, 45, of Alton, Illinois, was sentenced today in federal district court in East St. Louis to 63 months' imprisonment after pleading guilty on May 25, 2005, to: 18 counts of Possession of a Machinegun, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(o); 1 count of Possession of an Unregistered Destructive Device, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d); 1 count of Possession of a Silencer with no Serial Number, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(i); and 1 count of Manufacturing Firearms Without Registration, in violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(a). The judge also imposed 3 years' supervised release and a \$2100 special assessment.

In a Factual Stipulation filed with the Court, Brown acknowledged that he had engaged in manufacturing machineguns and destructive devices for at least ten years. The Stipulation also noted that a search of his residence on February 9, 2005 (made pursuant to a search warrant) resulted in seizure by ATF agents of: approximately 150 other destructive devices; approximately 20 pounds of explosive powders intended for use in destructive devices; and approximately six machinegun kits, consisting of parts intended for use in the manufacture of machineguns. The Stipulation also indicates that Brown abandoned thousands of rounds of ammunition and 38 other firearms to ATF.

In a related case, James Dean Wehrle, 41, of St. Charles, Missouri, was sentenced today after pleading guilty May 19, 2005, to one count of Possession of a Machinegun in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(o). Wehrle was sentenced to one year and one day imprisonment, three years' supervised release, a \$400 fine, and a \$100 special assessment. In a Factual Stipulation filed with the court, and at the sentencing hearing, Wehrle admitted buying the machinegun from Defendant Randall Brown in December, 2004, and transporting the weapon to St. Charles.

The cases were investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and were prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Clark.